

Phoenix, USA, Confers Friendship Award on SGI President for Global Peace Efforts



[SGI-USA members in Phoenix celebrate Mr. Ikeda's recognition](#)

On August 24, Phoenix, Arizona, USA, conferred the Phoenix Friendship Award on SGI President Daisaku Ikeda, in recognition of his distinguished leadership for world peace through humanistic dialogue and promotion of cultural and educational exchanges. The conferral took place at the SGI-USA Phoenix Culture Center in Phoenix, which opened the same day last year. Some 600 local residents and local SGI-USA members attended. Michael Kelly, assistant to the mayor of Phoenix, presented a certificate to SGI-USA

Regional Leader George Nakamura, who received it on behalf of Mr. Ikeda. Mr. Kelly praised SGI-USA's multifaceted grassroots activities promoting peace, culture and education, which, he believes, have contributed to the city's development. In May 2001, SGI-USA hosted "Dialogue with Nature--Photographs by Daisaku Ikeda" at the Phoenix city hall. SGI-USA Phoenix members have strengthened bonds within the community. Examples of their efforts are supporting the city's interfaith activities through providing their center for meetings and participating in environmental preservation projects, including planting trees in city parks.